

STATE OF COLORADO

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Jane E. Norton
Lieutenant Governor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 6, 2004

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MEDIA ADVISORY

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR JANE NORTON JOINS SHEDDING LIGHT TOUR IN SUPPORT OF MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

Who: Lt. Governor Jane Norton
Kristy Worthen, Mental Health Advocate and flag designer
Mary Worthen, mother of Kristy Worthen, author
Dr. Jennifer Hagman, Associate Professor of Psychiatry, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center
Carol Ann Reynolds, Executive Director, NAMI Colorado

When: 9:30 a.m. Thursday, October 7, 2004

Why: Colorado Lieutenant Governor Jane E. Norton will sign a special mental health flag at a press conference to support mental illness awareness. The flag, designed by Kristy Worthen, a bipolar disorder patient, is on tour as part of a national initiative sponsored by the National Lieutenant Governors' Association (NLGA) and the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI). The original hand-painted flag was designed by Kristy to draw attention to the need for improvement in the lives of people with mental illnesses through access to accurate information, resources and appropriate medications.

Where: Colorado State Capitol Building, West Foyer
200 East Colfax Avenue, Denver, CO 80203

Background: The flag was hand-painted by Kristy Worthen, age 24, whose inspirational story is the subject of "Journey Not Chosen...Destination Not Known: Living with Bipolar Disorder."

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Bearing the symbol of a beacon from a lighthouse and the slogan “Shine a Light on Mental Health Issues,” the flag has flown to date over statehouses in 32 states, and has been signed by President George W. Bush. Colorado is the flag tour’s 33rd state.

For more information about the flag project, see the NGLA web site, www.nclg.org/Projects/NAMI_arkansas_Flag.htm.
Or, visit Kristy Worthen’s web site at www.netmountain.net/kristyworthen.

Jane Norton was sworn in as Colorado’s 46th Lieutenant Governor on January 13, 2003. Her responsibilities include serving as the chair of the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs; acting as point person for the Owens Administration on health insurance reform; strengthening families by promoting adoption, early childhood care and education efforts/initiatives, mentoring and volunteerism; and serving as Colorado’s delegate to the Aerospace States Association

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